(v) Ravi & Beas Water Tribunal (RBWT)

RBWT was constituted in April, 1986. Tribunal submitted its report in January, 1987. The Central Government and Party States have sought explanation/guidance under section 5(3) of the Act. The tribunal has not submitted its further report to the Government.

Water-logged area in Sindhu region

287. SHRI BALAVANT BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information regarding three lac square Km. water-logged area in Sindhu region was known before the Indus Water Treaty-1960;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India got only 9 to 10 per cent of this area;

(c) whether there is no provision of review in the Treaty;

(d) whether a demand for review can be made to safeguard our national interests under Article 4 of the Helsinki Rules; and

(e) if so, the details of the policy made thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Available references indicate that water-logging in Sindhu region was known before the Indus Water Treaty 1960. However, they do not provide any unique area of water-logging in Sindhu region and the area that India got. The report of the Irrigation Commission - 1972 states that about 10.9 lac hectares of area was affected in the Punjab State as estimated in the year 1958. Further, as per the book *"The Indus Basin-History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Management" by CD. Thatte and Others,* the survey in 1943 indicated that roughly an area of 0.2 million ha. was affected by *thur* (alkali and saline soils) and *sem* (waterlogged) whereas the aerial reconnaissance survey got conducted by Government of Pakistan in 1954 indicated that an area of more than 4.45 million ha. in West Pakistan was poorly drained and water-logged.

(c) Relevant provisions of the Treaty (Article XII Final Provisions) which provide for its review are given below:—

"(3) The provisions of this Treaty may from time to time be modified by a duly ratified treat concluded for that purpose between the two Governments.

(4) The provisions of this Treaty, or the provisions of this Treaty as modified under the provisions of Paragraph (3), shall continue in force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments".

(d) The Helsinki Rules governing use of International Watercourses 1966 are guidelines adopted by the International Law Association (ILA), a private body of lawyers are not binding upon States.

(e) Does not arise.